

and other supporters of this legislation has been very helpful indeed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BYRD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, today we celebrate the life of the patron saint of Ireland known popularly as Saint Patrick. Saint Patrick's given name was actually Maewyn and he was born in Wales about 385 A.D. Many of us, whether we have a drop of bonafide Irish blood or not, will have donned something green today, in honor of the great spirit and rich traditions of the Irish people, and of their substantial contributions in all walks of life to this, their adopted homeland.

Right here in the Senate we can see the brilliant legacy of the Irish gene pool personified in the physical presence of some of our most outstanding Members.

I note that one of these sons of Ireland celebrated his 72nd birthday on yesterday—merely a young lad in my eyes. That illustrious son of Ireland is none other than the Honorable DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN. Although I am honored to wish this amazing gentleman the happiest of birthdays, my heart hangs heavy with the knowledge that all too soon this incredible man will be leaving this body. He has announced his retirement from the United States Senate, commencing with the end of this Congress.

In this coming year, we will celebrate his life and his achievements, but I cannot emphasize enough what a loss this body will have suffered when the senior Senator from New York, Mr. MOYNIHAN, no longer graces this Chamber. He is, quite literally, irreplaceable.

PAT MOYNIHAN is, in every sense of the word, a giant. He has written more books than most of us have read. Often his observations have been astoundingly prophetic. From his towering intellect, to his wry wit, to the breadth of his experience in governing, to his contributions to his country, and to the world, Senator MOYNIHAN is almost without parallel in our times. He is that rare commodity to which superlatives may be applied without hesitation, and in complete honesty. Time will only enhance his legacy and his reputation.

When my own time comes to leave this august body or even to leave this beautiful blue sphere we call the great, good earth, I will count among my proudest, most important and enjoyable experiences, that of having served with the gentleman from New York.

So today, on St. Patrick's Day, I thank his ancestral nation for sending

this phenomenal gentleman to us, and I congratulate DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN for a life of excellence. What pride we have in him as one of our own, what pride, indeed.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERIM FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, we are seeking a UC, which I expect to get sometime relatively soon—at least I hope so. If not, we will have just had a good discussion. But I think we are fairly near to making sure that it is agreeable to all Senators.

In the meantime, the Senator from Virginia is missing a very important hearing that concerns some China issues. I would like to have him recognized at this time since he has to leave the floor.

The issue is a short-term extension of 60 days of the FAA authorization, with two amendments. We are awaiting approval from the other side of the aisle before we proceed.

I yield the floor so that the Senator from Virginia can speak.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague.

Mr. President, Senator McCAIN and I met with the majority leader, Senator LOTT, in the past day or so to discuss the bills relating to the Nation's airports. I specifically in each of these meetings raised those pieces of legislation that pertain specifically to National and Dulles Airports. The Senator and I have worked together for decades. We are old shipmates in some respects; slight difference in time, but, nevertheless, shipmates. We have our differences.

The purpose of this legislation today is to enable, at the request of the majority leader, a short-term, 60-day measure to go forth to extend existing legislation. But I have filed two bills with the Senate. I am going to ask now that the second bill be made a part of this extension of 60 days.

There are approximately some \$200 million currently in escrow for the combined reconstruction programs at National and Dulles Airports. That sum is yet to be disbursed. I am working to get it disbursed.

So, for the moment, Senator McCAIN and I have agreed, together with Senator LOTT, that \$30 million of that fund can now be released subject to adoption by the Senate of this legislation, and, of course, with the concurrence in the House; but can be released to begin some very needed projects at these airports.

Mr. President, I am going to depart the floor. I have to go to the Senate Intelligence Committee. Senator McCAIN will put this amendment in on my behalf. I think he is going to be a cosponsor on it. But essentially we are making some progress towards the release of these funds.

I thank the distinguished chairman and my good friend.

I will enter no objection to the 60-day legislation going forward.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. McCAIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, as the Senator from Virginia leaves the floor, I will support his amendment, which allows the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to collection \$30 million of the PFC charge and Airport Improvement Funding Program to complete projects at the Reagan National and Dulles Airports. Full funding for those projects has been delayed until we are able to put in place our corresponding agreement on the reauthorization of the FAA.

Mr. President, I have no desire to hold up progress at either airport. I will be proposing, if we get agreement from the other side, the amendment on behalf of Senator WARNER. We have reached an agreement.

I thank the Senator.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague.

I think it would be wise, I say to our distinguished chairman of the Commerce Committee, to advise the Senate with regard to the discussions he has had with me and others as to the future timing of the major piece of legislation in which I have another very specific interest.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I believe that we should be able to pass this FAA reauthorization in its entirety very quickly through the floor of the Senate. We spent 2 weeks on it last year. This bill is fundamentally the same as it was last year. I am hopeful that the majority leader will seize the time after the recess to spend a day or so on it.

I would like to remind my colleague from Virginia that we reached an agreement on flights from Reagan National, Chicago O'Hare, Kennedy, and LaGuardia, the slot-controlled airports last year. And also we had agreement on the perimeter rule.

It is not that we can't reach agreement, because we already did. It appears to me that, with the agreement of the majority leader, sometime well within the next 30 days we should get this passed, because we would have to go to conference with the House. As you know, the House bill may contain some rather controversial provisions, including taking the entire aviation trust fund off budget, which is an issue which will be addressed, frankly, by the majority leader, and the chairman of the Budget Committee and others, because it is one that transcends aviation itself.